



# Derry Hill School

Teaching and Learning Policy

November 2025

## **Statement of intent**

At Derry Hill School, we aim offer all of our children a challenging, creative curriculum, seeking the highest standards and developing a stimulating and secure learning environment, embracing Christian understanding of everyone's needs and differences, achieved through effective communication and leadership.

This policy provides procedures aimed towards ensuring high quality teaching and learning throughout the school.

Our curriculum and school aim to:

- Embed a vibrant learning establishment
- Shape secure happy excited motivated children and staff
- Achieve of high standards in everything we do
- Ensure our Christian Values are evident in all aspects of school
- Ensure we have a shared vision and everyone is working towards the achievement of common objectives.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

The Board of Governors are responsible for:

- Ensuring reports are provided by the Head-Teacher and Subject Leaders and that action is taken where areas are identified as requiring improvement.
- Ensuring the subject leaders meets regularly to monitor progress against targets.
- Visiting the school to increase knowledge of classroom activity and conducting the following activities:
  - Observing lessons
  - Viewing samples of pupils' work
  - Viewing records of achievement
  - Talking to pupils about their experiences
  - Talking to teachers about their experiences
  - Reporting their findings to the entire governing board

**The SLT is responsible for:**

- Taking a general overview of the atmosphere in the school on a day-to-day basis by visiting classes and talking to staff and pupils.
- Liaising with parents to ensure needs are being met.
- Working in classrooms, including teaching, regularly.
- Carrying out focussed classroom-based observations.
- Reviewing and commenting on planning, with a focus on medium term plans
- Discussing all annual reports with staff.
- Completing a self-evaluation of the school's quality of teaching.
- Reporting on the quality of teaching and learning in the governors' report.
- Acting as role models for teaching staff.

**Subject Leaders are responsible for:**

- Developing and reviewing curriculum policies and schemes of work in collaboration with colleagues.
- Ensuring efficient management of the subject's budget.
- Developing and updating their action plans
- Maintaining their webpage on the school website.
- Taking accountability for the progress of pupils in their given subject.
- Reporting on the effectiveness of the curriculum to the SLT and the governing board.

**Teaching staff are responsible for:**

- Monitoring and evaluating their teaching.
- Seeking professional dialogue and constructive criticism from their head of department.

- Reviewing and evaluating their planning regularly.
- Setting appropriate and challenging targets for pupils based on ability.
- Collaborating with colleagues to moderate pupil achievement.
- Involving parents and other professionals in the monitoring process.
- Completing an annual review assessing the progress of their pupils.

#### **Pupils are responsible for:**

- Being on time for school.
- Being prepared to learn.
- Placing coats and bags in the appropriate area.
- Storing personal belongings in the area provided.
- Not eating or chewing during lessons.
- Being attentive.
- Listening to and following all reasonable instructions.
- Treating everyone with respect.
- Ensuring they are reading, practicing times-tables, and learning their spellings at least 3 times a week.

#### **External monitoring**

A named SIA (School Improvement Advisor) will liaise with the head teacher and relevant staff on a regular-cycle to monitor teaching performance.

The SIA will scrutinise all available data and discuss the school's self-evaluation, along with all matters arising from it, with the Governors and SLT

The SIA will undertake lesson observations.

The support of leaders from local schools will be sought to evaluate the work of the school through professional discussion and joint lesson observations.

Ofsted inspections will be used to identify strengths and weaknesses, and to develop an action plan for improvement.

#### **Discussion with senior leaders**

Senior leaders should discuss the following questions to assess the quality of teaching at the school:

- What is the school's approach to teaching?
- What is being done to monitor teaching?
- How is assessment used to inform planning, ensure appropriate challenge, set targets and provide feedback?
- To what extent do teachers use assessment within the lesson (for example mini-whiteboards and questioning, success criteria) to ensure that all pupils understand the lesson objectives?

- Are judgements based on the interpretation and evaluation of data and evidence?
- Are strengths and weaknesses in teaching and management identified?
- What strategies do TAs employ to support learning?
- Do pupils work independently, co-operate to solve problems, develop workplace skills and understand what they need to do to improve?

**What happens if pupils are absent or fall behind with their work? What support is in place to help them?**  
**Discussion with pupils**

Questions should be discussed with pupils to assess the quality of teaching at the school, some examples of what may be asked are:

- Tell me about this piece of work. What were you learning?
- Show me a piece of work that you are really proud of. Why?
- Do you know how to improve your work? Do you have the opportunity to improve your work?
- What do you think about your homework?
- What do you think the school could do to make XXXX more enjoyable/interesting for you?
- Which aspect of XXXX do you find challenging/difficult?

**Learning environment**

**Setting the tone**

The teacher will set the tone for the morning and afternoon sessions by taking the register on SIMS.

**Seating arrangements**

The teacher will consciously decide upon and plan the seating arrangements for pupils in order to maximise educational attainment. Arrangements will be changed to suit different activities and to allow students to work independently.

**The classroom**

It is imperative that the learning environment maximises opportunities to learn. Displays are changed on a termly basis and geared towards aiding learning, mirroring the learning done in lessons, and used as a celebration of children's work. Desks should be free from clutter and arranged in a manner providing suitable space for all. The room is well-ventilated and maintained at a suitable temperature. All pupils have access to water.

**Our philosophy**

Through our teaching philosophy, pupils are encouraged to:

- embrace their mistakes as learning opportunities.
- Adopt various roles in groups.
- Volunteer thoughts and opinions.
- Respect the thoughts, ideas and contributions of others.
- Give honest and positive feedback.

**To encourage all pupils to contribute to lessons, teachers:**

- Ensure pupils raise their hands before speaking to allow all pupils the chance to contribute without being interrupted.
- Allow sufficient thinking time between questions to allow pupils to consider their responses.
- Plan time in their lessons for pupils to discuss their learning with a partner or group before committing to a response.

**We reward and recognise achievement in the following ways:**

Positive praise as a driver for success, using formal and informal approaches.

The school formally rewards pupil in the following ways:

- Golden coins as rewards
- I'm flying high sticker and reward
- Achievement assemblies
- Let your light shine assembly

**The school informally rewards pupils in the following ways:**

- Congratulating pupils privately or in class
- Celebrating children's work with other teachers and staff
- Praising work with the whole class
- Displaying work we are proud of

**The teacher will manage disruptive behaviour by:**

- Referring to the pupil by name and checking that they are OK
- Quietly speaking to the pupil while the rest of the class is engaged.
- Giving the pupil a task to encourage responsibility.
- Reminding the pupil of the sanctions that follow a poor choice.
- In exceptional circumstances, calling for support from another member of staff.
- Ensuring the school's Behavioural Policy is adhered to at all times.

**To ensure that the quality of teaching is of the highest standard, we commit to ensuring that our teachers:**

- Understand what excellent teaching is.
- Creatively plan and deliver lessons in a pre-planned sequence with a long-term aim.
- Motivate pupils effectively.
- Enjoy and have a passion for teaching.
- Continue to learn and enhance their skills.
- Hold high expectations for all pupils.

- Understand how thinking and questioning develop learning.
- Are consummate professionals.
- Engage pupils of all abilities.
- Seek out and accept constructive feedback from peers, pupils and parents.
- Are given opportunities to lead.
- Involve parents and carers in their teaching.
- Understand and implement effective behaviour management strategies.

### **Teaching strategies**

#### **The curriculum**

Reception classes follow the EYFS profile, which flows into the Years 1-6 curriculum that follow the national curriculum.

The curriculum is balanced, with suitable proportions of time spent on statutory and non-statutory subjects. The curriculum is carefully timetabled, and content is suitable for the age and ability of the pupils. In addition, the curriculum is made accessible to all through differentiation and the provision of the necessary resources.

While teaching the national curriculum, wider aspects of learning, such as the development of social skills and self-esteem, also form a significant part of pupils' education.

#### **Planning and preparation**

Lessons are clearly linked to the national curriculum. They are differentiated to clearly show how pupils of all abilities are catered for.

Lessons have clearly identified learning intents and success criteria, showing continuity from one lesson to the next.

Lesson plans / slides clearly show how vocabulary will be used to enhance the children's learning of knowledge

The school gives teachers adequate preparation, planning and assessment (PPA) time, as per the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD).

#### **Delivery**

Lessons are delivered in a confident, lively style with good projection. Lessons are balanced, in terms of teacher and pupil-led activities, and cater for different learning styles. A range of lesson types are used including practical, visual, dramatic, investigative and group work.

#### **Resources**

Resources are prepared in advance and made readily available to pupils. They are accessible to all and appropriate for the learning objectives of the lesson. In addition, they cater to pupils' different learning styles. Resources are shared between teachers and departments in order to facilitate good practice.

#### **In-class support**

TAs are actively involved in the lesson to aid pupils' learning. They are involved in prior planning and preparation, and possess a good knowledge of the needs of individual pupils. They support different focus groups at different times (for example, pupils with SEND and academically more able pupils). In some circumstances, TAs are utilised on a one-

to-one basis with a child in need of additional help.

### **Pupil involvement**

Pupils are provided opportunities to follow-up teachers' marking with questions. Pupils are also allowed opportunities to mark their work (self-assessment), and that of their peers (peer-to-peer assessment). The learning objective of each lesson is explained at the start and displayed throughout.

### **High expectations**

The school sets high expectations for all pupils, regardless of ability, circumstances or needs.

### **SEND**

Pupils with SEND are treated as individuals. Every pupil is provided with the appropriate support. Pupils causing concern are discussed at weekly staff meetings and, if necessary, additional professional support is provided. Teachers also discuss, informally, the needs of individual pupils, enabling all teachers to be aware of pupils requiring support. See SEND policy.

### **Assessment**

#### **Baseline assessment**

Pupils joining the school will receive a baseline assessment when they start.

Strategies for baseline assessment include:

#### **Formative assessment (assessment for learning)**

Formative assessment creates a positive learning environment where pupils can see the steps necessary for their own success. It enables teachers to set appropriate work at the level necessary for pupils' continuing progress.

Formative assessment is a powerful way of raising pupils' achievement. It is based on the principle that pupils will improve most if they understand the aim of their learning, where they are in relation to this aim and how they can achieve the aim.

Formative assessments are used to:

- Identify pupils' strengths and gaps in their skills/knowledge.
- Identify the next steps for learning.
- Inform future planning.
- Enable appropriate strategies to be employed.
- Facilitate the setting of appropriate targets for the class, group and individual.
- Track the pupil's rate of progress.
- Facilitate an evaluation of the effectiveness of teaching and learning.
- Inform future teaching and learning strategies.
- Identify individuals and groups for specific intervention support.

Formative assessment will not be punitive. It is used to guide teaching and learning and help pupils achieve their targets. It is not used to judge a teacher's performance.

Formative assessment is not included as part of a pupil's final grade, but will be recorded as part of individual learning plans (ITTs).

Methods of formative assessment include the following:

- targeted questioning
- end of unit assessments in maths
- self-assessments through success criteria
- Teacher assessments of work
- Mind maps
- Sticky Knowledge Quizzes

### **Summative assessment (assessment of learning)**

Summative assessment is important for:

- Accurate information regarding a pupil's attainment and progress.
- Informing both parents and teachers of a pupil's attainment and progress.

### **Summative assessments:**

- Identify attainment through one-off tests at any given point in time.
- Record performance in a specific area on a specific date.
- Provide end of key stage test data against which the school will be judged.
- Ensure statutory assessments at the end of KS2 are undertaken.
- Provide information about cohort areas of strength and weakness to build from in the future.
- Are used to determine a pupil's final grade.
- Are used to monitor the progress of individuals and groups of pupils.
- Methods of summative assessment include:
  - Termly assessments in core subjects
  - End of unit big writes
  - External examinations such as the Mathematics Times table checks, SATS and phonics screening.

## **EYFS**

### **Focussed observations**

Children are identified each week and a focussed observation is carried out on these children. This involves focussing on the child for a period of time and documenting what they do (this may involve written note taking or video recording). If appropriate, the adult will support play when conducting this observation. The focussed observation is then analysed and the next steps are identified and planned for, for the following week. The children will have at least one focussed observation per term.

### **Short observations**

These are short, spontaneous 'capture the moment' observations. Teachers and early years practitioners (EYPs) document onto sticky notes what the child has done. These are then annotated with the appropriate band and filed into the child's individual learning journal along with long observations. Both the long and short observations are used to provide evidence to assess and complete the EYFS Profile, and termly judgements are made using this information.

### **Floor books in Dormouse Class**

These highlight key achievements for the children. Photographs of key events in Reception and exemplar pieces of work, mainly done independently by the children, are included in this book or online. Parents and families are encouraged to send in pieces of work, certificates and photographs that can be included in the book to create a whole picture of the child. These books provide key evidence in support of the profile points, which creates a record of attainment for each child.

### **Focus activity**

During focussed activities, teaching staff may write comments on the child's work, often identifying the level of support needed or if the work was done independently. Children are encouraged to discuss their work and next steps are also discussed with the children in child friendly terms.

All of the information collated over the year provides the evidence base for the early learning goals at the end of Reception.

### **KS1 and KS2**

Teachers use assessment for learning to provide on-going assessment, through the use of focussed marking and/or observations of pupils' work, against learning intents and success criteria. This information is then used to assess progress towards meeting learning targets, and to identify and set next step targets for each pupil.

Termly tests are used to identify progress and gaps in learning. The tracking grids identify under-achieving pupils and set targets in reading, writing and maths for individual pupils and groups (PIRA, PUMA, SWST)

Termly pupil progress reviews are used to identify and analyse progress and set targets in reading, writing and maths for classes and cohorts.

Pupils receive timely verbal feedback on their progress.

### **Planning for assessment**

The national curriculum programmes of study are used to guide our teaching. These documents provide us with the framework to ensure breadth and balance in our curriculum.

Lessons contain clear learning objectives, based upon the teacher's detailed knowledge of each pupil. We strive to ensure all tasks set are appropriate to each pupil's level of ability.

Teachers use a variety of focussed marking to assess pupils' progress in relation to the planned learning objectives, and set the next steps to show where the pupil is in relation to this aim and how they can achieve the aim. Teachers use this information when planning for subsequent lessons.

### **Assessment methods/materials**

Teachers use a range of assessment tools and materials (including INSIGHT, guided reading records and results of class tests), alongside on-going focussed marking and of pupil observations & discussions, to inform their

assessment of progress for individual pupils and groups.

Results of published tests are used to contribute to overall teacher assessments.

## **Reporting**

Reporting to parents provides the opportunity for communication about their child's achievements, abilities and future targets. End of year reports are written so that they have a positive effect on pupils' attitudes, motivation and self-esteem.

We provide opportunities for two-parent consultation evenings so that parents can discuss how well their child has settled and are able to be involved in the target setting process. In addition, we provide opportunities for a final end-of-year report.

We provide parents with an end-of-year written report before the end of the Summer term, which gives information relating to progress and attainment.

We give parents the opportunity to discuss their child's progress, by appointment.

## **KS2**

Reports for pupils at the end of KS2 will include:

- The results of any national curriculum tests taken, including the pupil's scaled score, and whether they met the expected standard.
- The outcomes of statutory national curriculum teacher assessments in English reading, English writing, maths and science.
- Where appropriate, a statement explaining why any national curriculum test has not been taken.
- Comparative information about the attainment of pupils of the same age.

## **Moderation**

Regular moderation takes place each term to ensure consistency. Teachers meet in phase groups or in cross phase groups to analyse pupils' work against national curriculum or EYFS requirements. During the Summer term, teachers in Reception, Year 2 and Year 6 are involved in formal teacher assessments, as part of end of key stage assessments and LA moderation.

## **Individual learning**

### **Individual Target trackers (ITTs)**

ITTs are available for pupils who are not progressing as expected, to allow pupils to lead their own achievement.

ITTs are reviewed termly to ensure that they are still effective.

## **EHC plans**

Some young people with SEND may require additional support from professionals outside of the school setting. In these cases, the views of parents, psychologists and further specialists will be sought. Based on these views, and in collaboration with the pupil, an EHC plan will be sought.

More information can be found in the school's SEND Policy.

### **Monitoring and reporting**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the FGB.

The governors' annual report will contain updates and analysis regarding teaching and learning at the school.

**Policy review date:** November 2025

**Policy reviewed by:** Headteacher

**Policy ratified by:** FGB

**Next policy review:** November 2027